

d.) Remarks

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. The subject matter of the amendment is found throughout the specification as filed, *inter alia*, at page 11, lines 12-15 and page 12, lines 13-19. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Mimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,318,866). Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Mimura.

The Examiner's bases of rejection are set forth at page 2 of the Office Action. In that regard, the Examiner clarifies (see the last two paragraphs at page 4 and the first paragraph of page 5) that the non-constant angle with respect to the V-groove plane is taught by Mimura since the angles defined at the intersections between the V-grooves differs so the angle of the lateral face is not maintained constant for the length of the plane.

Although this rejection is respectfully traversed, solely in order to reduce the issues and expedite prosecution, Applicant has above amended independent claims 1 and 21 to specify that at least one of the lateral faces does not form a plane, which subject matter is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-21 remain presented for continued prosecution. Rejoinder of

subgeneric claims 7-20 is respectfully requested upon allowance of generic linking claim 21.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence S. Perry/
Lawrence S. Perry
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 31,865

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LSP\ac

FCHS_WS 2225261_1.DOC